

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

SON IS 'CHANGED' IN CHINESE PRISON

But Mother Says Redmond
Exhibits Good Spirits

Special to The New York Times

YONKERS, Nov. 3 — Mrs.

Ruth Redmond returned to her home here today after a visit with her son, Hugh Francis Redmond Jr., who is serving a life sentence in Communist China on an espionage charge.

"I know there is something radically wrong with him," Mrs. Redmond said. "He just didn't look like my son."

She was permitted to have four short interviews with him in a Shanghai prison in the presence of Chinese Communist officials.

Mr. Redmond, who is 43 years old, was imprisoned 11 years ago. He was taken into custody in Shanghai while he was an employe of an American exporting and importing concern.

The visit was his mother's second. Her first was in January, 1958. Since then, Mrs. Redmond said, his general condition had deteriorated.

"He was very, very changed," she reported. "When I first saw him I was really shocked. There was terrific change in his face, and a continuous twitching of his right eye."

No Sign of Mistreatment

She said the major part of the change in Mr. Redmond was physical, and that he still seemed in good spirits. She saw that it appeared he was not being mistreated in prison.

In her interviews with her son, she said, virtually all topics except "home and family" were ruled out by the Chinese. Mrs. Redmond has never been able to discuss with her son the details of his arrest and trial.

The State Department has protested Mr. Redmond's imprisonment several times. It denies that he was engaged in espionage.

During the last visit, Mrs. Redmond sent a plea for her son's release to Mao Tze-tung, the leader of the Chinese Communist party. There has been no reply. There also was none in 1958, when she sent a similar request to Premier Chou En-lai.

Hopeful of Release

Mrs. Redmond said she and her son were optimistic that he would be released. But she admitted there had been no hopeful signs from Chinese Communist officials.

During the years of his imprisonment, Mr. Redmond has been permitted to receive packages of clothing and food from his mother, a widow. She also sends books to him by way of the Red Cross, including novels in Russian, French and Spanish, and various scientific works.

Mrs. Redmond attributed what she termed "his sharp memory" to long hours of reading. That is his only leisure activity except for pacing back and forth in his cell, she said.

Mrs. Redmond, a dietitian with the Yonkers Board of Education, lives at 43 Argyle Terrace. Her trip to China was arranged by the Red Cross and financed with the help of friends, including the Citizens Committee of Yonkers for the Release of Hugh Redmond.